

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 AMSTER 00664 111012Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-08 CAB-05 FAA-00
DOTE-00 /032 W

-----085267 111018Z /10/53

O 061400Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3521

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS AMSTERDAM 664

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TAGS (ADD EAIR REPEAT EAIR)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NL, EAIR

SUBJ: PAN AM LOW FARE FLIGHTS AMSTERDAM TO BOSTON: POSSIBLE
SCS PROBLEM

REF: LAGASSE/GISE TELCON JULY 5.

1. AS OF MORNING JULY 6, PAN AM'S WAITING LISTS FOR ITS LOW
FARE FLIGHTS TO BOSTON WERE FILLED UNTIL JULY 15. THERE IS ONE
FLIGHT PER DAY, CAPACITY 184, AND IT HAS RUN WITH MAXIMUM LOADS.
PAN AM REPORTS NO-SHOW FACTOR AS HIGH AS 40 PERSONS PER
FLIGHT. AVAILABLE SEATS ARE FILLED FROM FOLLOWING DAYS REGISTER
IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION.

2. POST HAS HAD SOME 20 PHONE COMPLAINTS FROM PASSENGERS FORCED
TO WAIT FOR SEATS. ALTHOUGH A FEW HAVE TOLD US THEIR FUNDS
LIMITED, WE HAVE HAD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM ONLY
3 TRAVELERS. ON JULY 6 WE RECEIVED PETITION SIGNED BY 51 AMERICAN
CLAIMING TO BE STRANDED AT AIRPORT. WE TOLD THE TWO PERSONS
WHO DELIVERED PETITION WHAT WE CAN DO TO ASSIST AND STRESSED
THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

3. WE FEEL PEAK OF RETURN TRAVEL YET TO COME. MANY OF THE TOURISTS
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WHO WILL APPEAR HERE IN NEXT FEW DAYS MAY BE UNAWARE OF BACKLOG
PROBLEM AND MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO MAINTAIN SELVES WHILE
WAITING. SOME MAY HAVE TO PAY SUPPLEMENT REPORTED PARA 4.

4. ACCORDING PAN AM PASSENGER WHO COMPLETED ONE LEG OF TRIP
AT LOW ROUND TRIP FARE OF DOLS 149. WILL HAVE UNTIL JULY 31
TO COMPLETE TRIP. THOSE WHO TRAVEL ONE WAY BEFORE
JULY 14 BUT DO NOT COMPLETE TRIP BY JULY 31 WILL HAVE TO PAY

ADDED FARE OF 129 DUTCH GUILDERS (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 59.)
PAN AM REP TOLD US AMSTERDAM HAS STOPPED SELLING DOLS 149 ROUND
TRIP TICKETS AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT BOSTON HAS DONE THE
SAME.

5. PAN AM HAS ASKED DUTCH AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO BRING
IN 747 ON A AD HOC BASIS TO HELP CLEAR BACKLOG. AS OF NOON
JULY 6 MATTER WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. PAN AM REP TOLD US AIRLINE IS FULFILLING ITS RESPOSIBILITIES
TOWARD PASSENGERS AND THAT IT CANNOT HELP TRAVELERS REQUIRING
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NOR GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE POST DETERMINES
ARE DESTITUTE.

LAGASSE

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